



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
Arkansas Field Office

10800 Financial Centre Parkway, Suite 110, Little Rock, AR 72211



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Contact: Eugene Young
(800) 327-2970

USDA TO COUNT CATTLE IN JANUARY

Little Rock, AR – In January, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey cattle operations throughout the country to obtain a comprehensive measure of beef production nationwide. NASS will publish survey results in the *Cattle* report on February 1, 2013.

"During the first two weeks of January Arkansas producers have the opportunity to report their beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations" said Becky Cross, director of the Arkansas Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). "In Arkansas, we'll be contacting about 1,000 operations to request their responses to the January Cattle Survey."

The information is a critical decision-making tool for the cattle industry, she explained. "For instance, it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export," Cross said.

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate, NASS offers the option of responding via a secure Internet connection, telephone, mail, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

Cross noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified," she said.

The *Cattle* report and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Arkansas Field Office at (800) 327-2970.

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